

Education of Homeless Children and Youth

TitleCon 2019

Valerie Beard

**Assistant Director of EL and Migrant
Education Programs**



@EducateIN @ValerieBeardEL

Working Together for Student Success

Welcome!

What's your role in your school or district?

How long have you served as a homeless education liaison?

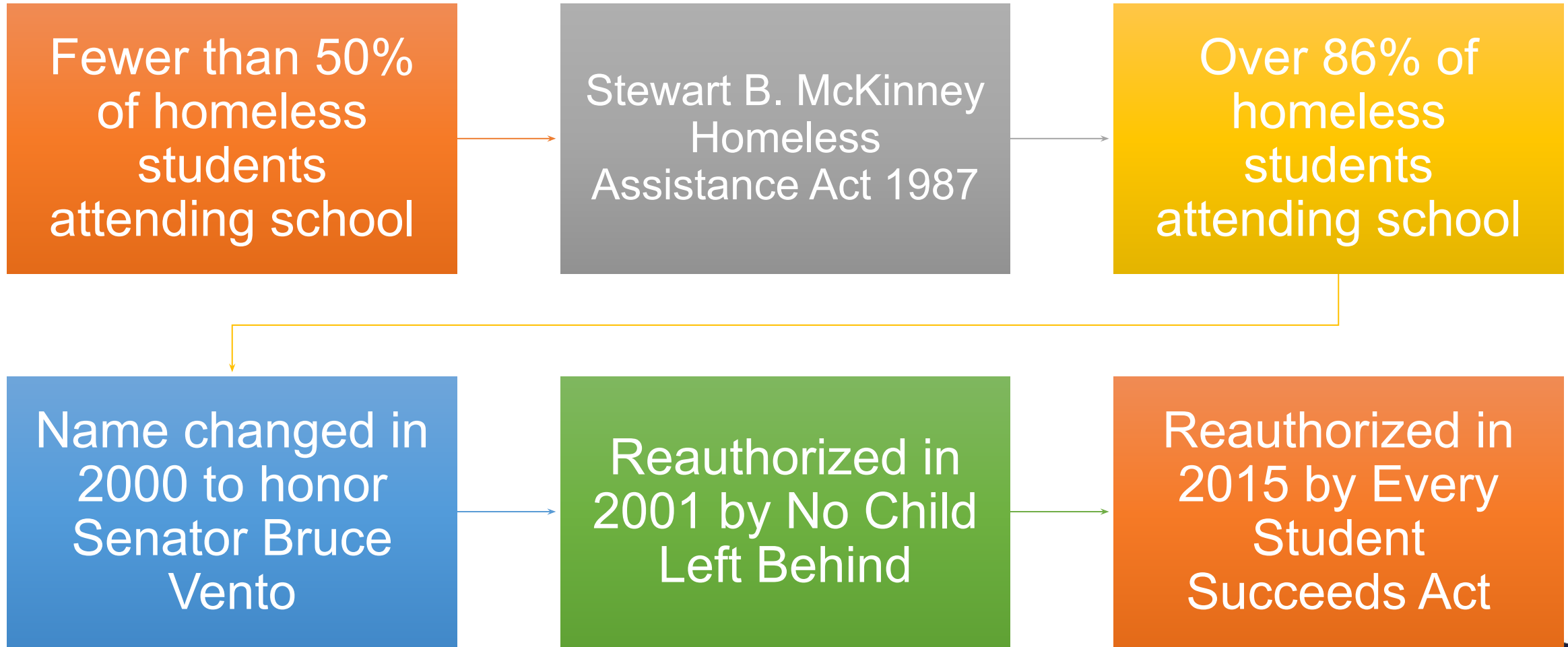
How do you feel about the role of the liaison?

Let me know! Take the poll at

<https://tinyurl.com/EHCYTitleCon>



McKinney-Vento: A Brief History



Who Is Bound by the McKinney-Vento Act?

***Every** local education agency, regardless of whether or not they receive the McKinney-Vento grant, is held to the requirements of the law.*

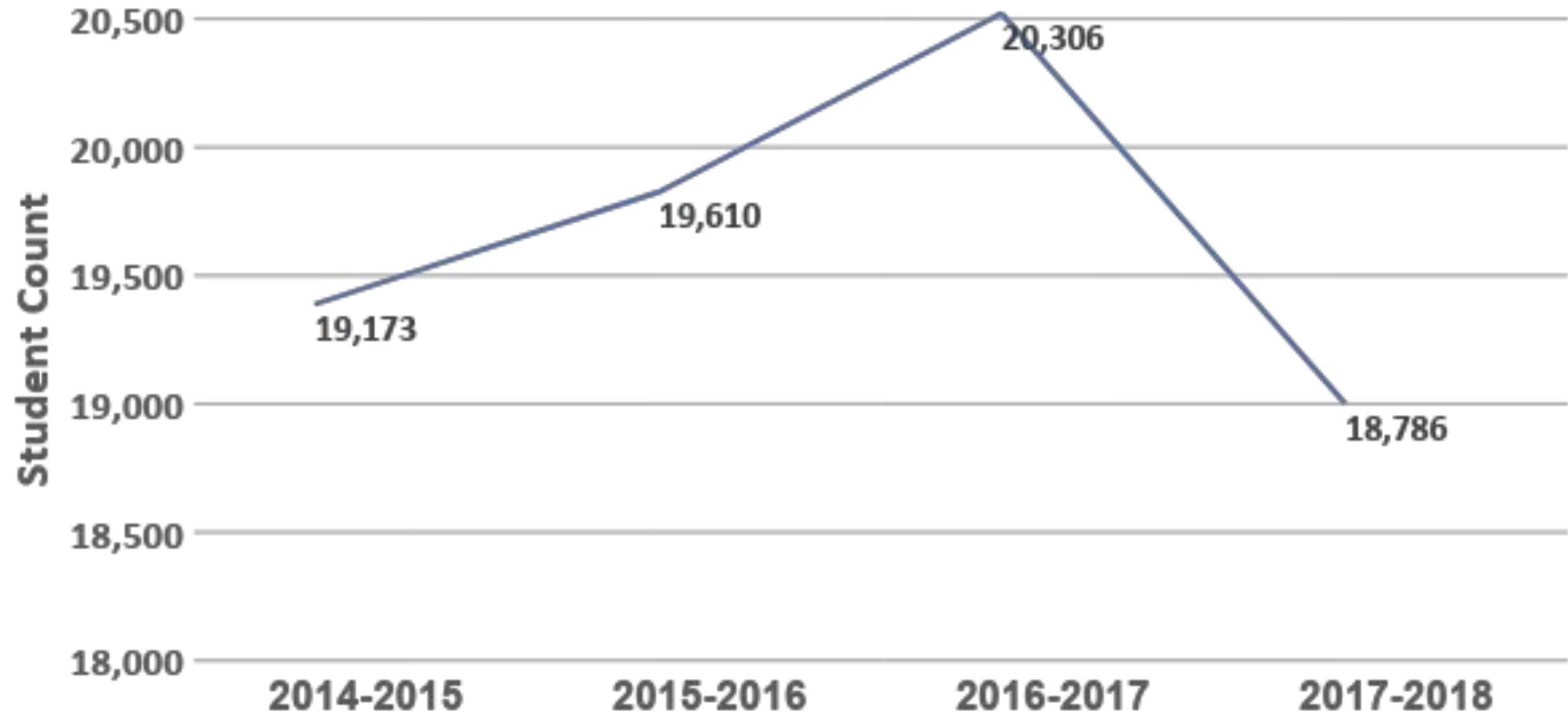


Major Priorities of the McKinney-Vento Act

- Educational access and stability
- Student-centered decision-making
- Parental role in education
- Critical role of the local liaison
- Collaboration across programs and agencies



Homeless Students in Indiana Schools



Defining Homelessness

Reflect and record:

Who are homeless students?

What causes homelessness?

How does homelessness impact students?



Who Are Homeless Students?

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless students as those who lack a **fixed**, **regular**, and **adequate** nighttime residence.

This includes students who are:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (i.e., “doubled up”)
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative housing
- Staying in emergency and transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals



Who Are Homeless Students?

This includes students who are:

- Living in public or private places not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, or bus or train stations
- Living in abandoned buildings or substandard housing
- Migratory children living in the above situations
- Unaccompanied youth living in the above situations



What Causes Homelessness?



Affordable Housing Shortage



Illness



Natural Disasters



Family Discord



How Does Homelessness Impact Students?

Students experiencing homelessness have significantly higher rates of:

- Emotional, behavioral, and health issues
- Developmental delays
- Grade retention and lower rates of academic success
- Hunger and food insecurity
- Exposure to domestic violence

Additionally, adverse childhood experiences (including homelessness) are linked to future adult homelessness.



Who Are YOUR Homeless Students?

What contexts of homelessness do you see most often?

Have you seen changes in these contexts over time?

What are the unique challenges of identifying students in different contexts of homelessness?



Enrollment

- Homeless children and youth have the right to enroll in school *immediately*, even if they do not have all required documents for registration
- If a student does not have immunizations or other medical records, the liaison must assist immediately in obtaining them and the student must be enrolled in the interim.
- Enrolling schools must obtain school records from the previous school and students must be enrolled while records are obtained
- Districts must develop, review /revise policies to remove barriers to enrollment and retention of homeless students



School Selection

- Students can stay in their school-of-origin the entire time they are considered homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing
- If a student becomes homeless in between academic years, he or she may continue in the school-of-origin for the following academic year
- If a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, the district must provide a written explanation to the parent or guardian of its decision and the right to appeal



Transportation

- Transportation must be provided to and from the school of origin at the request of the parent or guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, at the request of the local liaison
- Based on the amended definition of *school of origin* under ESSA, school of origin transportation rights extend to public preschools and receiving schools
- ESSA removed the word “homeless” from references to school of origin transportation, resulting in transportation for the remainder of the academic year for formerly homeless students who have become permanently housed



Title I Comparable Services

Equal



Comparable



Allowable Uses of Title I, A Set-Aside

- Items of clothing, particularly if necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement
- Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes
- Student fees necessary to participate in the general education program
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks & notebooks
- Immunizations
- Food
- Medical & dental services



Allowable Uses of Title I, A Set-Aside

- Eyeglasses and hearing aids
- Counseling services to address anxiety impeding learning
- Outreach services to students living in temporary residences
- Extended learning time
- Tutoring services, especially in shelters where homeless students live
- Family engagement activities
- Fees for AP testing
- Fees for college entrance exams such as SAT or ACT



Resolution of Disputes - Key Provisions

- When a dispute arises, the parent or guardian must be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision including the right to appeal
- When a dispute over enrollment arises, the student must be admitted immediately to the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved
- The school must refer the child, youth, parent, or guardian to the liaison to carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible
- Documentation should be kept for all local liaison interventions with parents—not just formal disputes



Resource Walk-Through



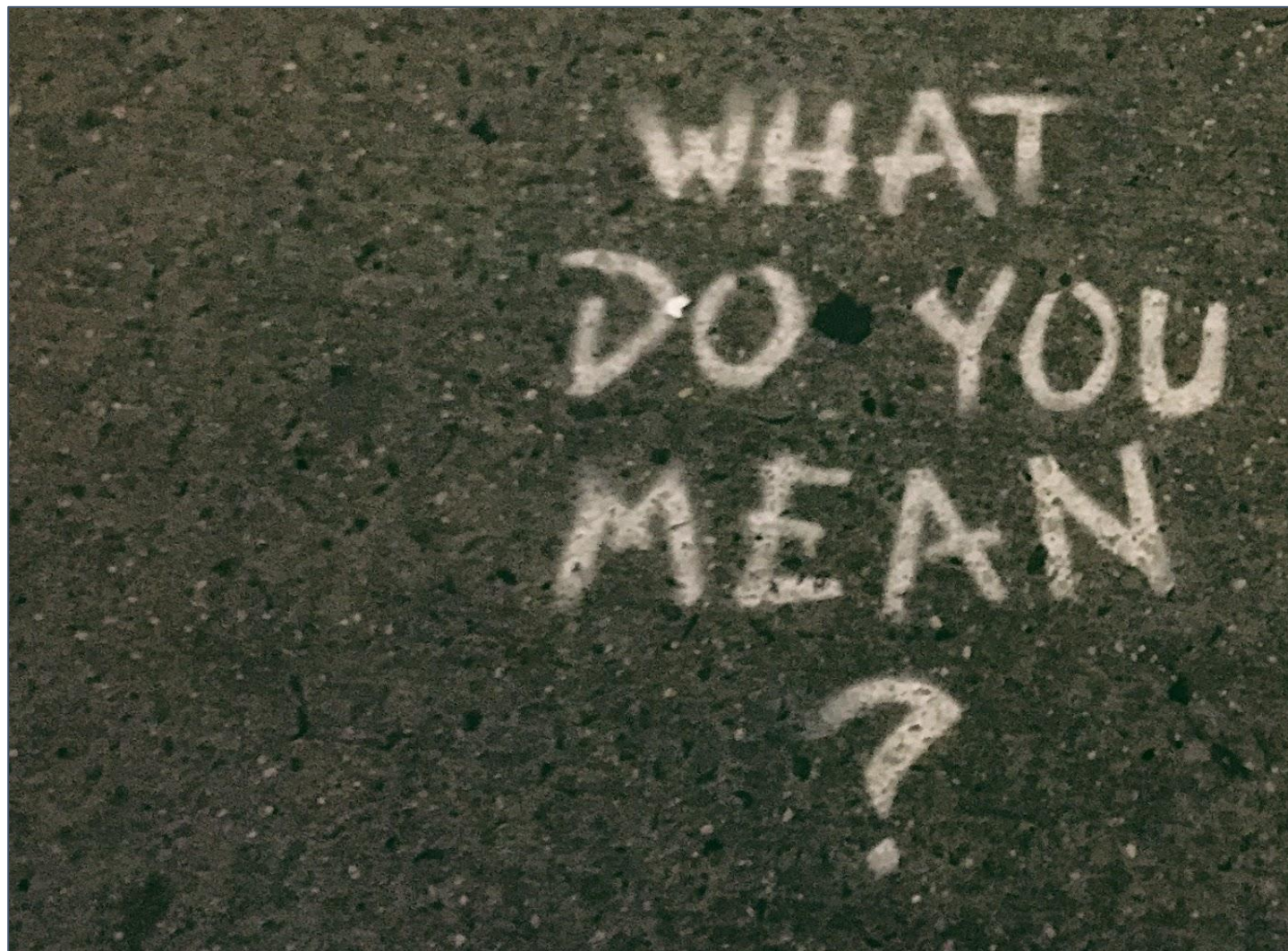
Resource Scavenger Hunt

With a partner, search for at least one example of the following:

- Resources for educators to help homeless students transition to college.
- Scholarship opportunities for homeless youth.
- State-specific data on homeless student demographics and enrollment
- Information on transportation laws impacting homeless students in Indiana
- Parent brochures and posters promoting program awareness
- Opportunities for professional learning outside of Indiana



Questions?



Contact Information:

Valerie Beard

Assistant Director of EL
and Migrant Education Programs

vbeard@doe.in.gov

